# Windy Nook Primary No Smoking and Vaping Policy – 2025

Windy Nook Primary School is committed to providing a healthy, safe, and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, and visitors. We are a Rights Respecting School and put children at the heart of our policy work. Article 24 refers to health and health services and states that children have the right to the best health care possible, a clean and safe environment and information to stay well. We respect the rights and as duty bearers we have a legal obligation to protect and fulfil the rights of the children.

This policy outlines our approach to smoking and vaping in compliance with UK public health legislation and Department for Education guidance (2025) and Gateshead Local Authority’s no smoking policy.

## 1. Policy Statement

Gateshead Authority has a no-smoking policy for all its premises, therefore smoking and vaping is not allowed on the school premises , including buildings and grounds, at all times. This applies to all staff, pupils, parents, contractors, and visitors. In addition to this we do not allow smoking and vaping on the school premises or outside the school gates because we do not want to present smoking as acceptable, nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models.

## 2. Legal Framework

This policy complies with the Health Act 2006, the Children and Families Act 2014, and the UK Government’s 2025 Tobacco and Vaping Control Strategy. It supports the school’s duty to safeguard children and promote health and wellbeing.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals on school premises and during school-related activities off-site. It includes the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, and any other tobacco or nicotine products.

## 4. Staff Conduct

Staff are expected to model healthy behaviours. Smoking or vaping in view of pupils or on school grounds is not permitted. Breaches may result in disciplinary action in line with the Staff Code of Conduct.

 Staff, and any other adults (including children’s parents) accompanying children on educational visits are also not permitted to smoke and vape to ensure that they are also not presented as acceptable outside school premises. If any member of staff wishes to smoke or vape, they must leave the school site. A breach of this policy will be seen as a variance from acceptable standards of behaviour and will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

## 5. Education and Prevention

We teach children about the dangers of smoking and vaping as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme and part of their drugs education linked to the National Curriculum for Science. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking and vaping has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children’s class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. He or she encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions about smoking. Pupils are taught about the health risks, peer pressure, and making informed choices. While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke and vape simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.

The dangers of smoking and vaping sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons, when children learn about the way substances affect the body, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children’s questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking and vaping are dangerous, and should be avoided.

## 6. Support for Cessation

The school encourages staff and parents who wish to quit smoking or vaping to seek support through NHS Stop Smoking Services.

7. **Management of Incidents**

## We fully support and adopt Gateshead Council’s no smoking policy and follow the guidance laid down in this policy for action to be taken should a member of staff, visitors or contractors be in breach of the policy. A breach of this policy will be seen as a variance from acceptable standards of behaviour and will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

## If children are found to be smoking and vaping in school, or cigarettes or e-cigarettes are found in their possession, they are confiscated from the child and the parents informed immediately. An initial offence would be treated as an opportunity for education, however subsequent offences may incur a fixed term exclusion.

## We acknowledge that smoking incidents are a health-related matter and should not only be dealt with as a breach of school rules. We therefore offer support to staff who smoke by making literature available to them which details support available from local health services when giving up. Pupils are educated and given support as part of the Drugs Education programme.

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## 8. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or in response to changes in legislation. The Headteacher and Governing Body are responsible for ensuring its implementation and effectiveness.